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aver our acquiescence in all its details and all its positions. Some of his conclusions are too rigidly drawn. We believe there is a chain of evidence to arise from these same mounds and tombs, which is yet to tell us, in sounds and words, something more certain with respect to the tale of the early connexion between the races of the old and new world. But, so far as the information is before the public, this work brings down an epitome of its history to the close of 1841. And it is a work from the perusal of which no one, who appreciates the subject, can arise without being either gratified or instructed.

ART. III. — *Collections of the New York Historical Society.* Second Series. Volume I. New York. 8vo. pp. 486.

IN no department of literature has a greater revolution taken place in the course of a few years, than in that to which this volume is a contribution. The new taste which has grown up should be fostered and encouraged, as tending to give us a national character; as meliorating the feelings of the community, warming their affections for the great and glorious deeds of their progenitors, and prompting to an imitation of their virtues, sacrifices, and devotion to the public weal. And it would seem, that, if "history may be regarded as the record of a series of experiments eliciting the social nature of man," accounts of the formation of our early settlements, and of the growth of this immense Empire of the West from the mere handful of adventurers who formed its beginning, must be of much greater value, than histories of those conquerors of nations, whose only glory was in the destruction of works of human art, and in drenching the earth with the blood of its inhabitants.

The encouragement of such historical studies has been regarded as in itself an evidence of the advance of a people in civilized life. "Here," says Southey, in his "*History of Brazil*," when speaking of one of the Captaincies, — "Here the first sugar-canes were planted, and here the first cattle were reared, and here the other Captaincies stocked themselves with both. Whether the honor of having introduced

them into Brazil be due to the founder of the colony, is not stated. A battle or massacre would have been recorded. He who thus benefits mankind in a savage age, is deified ; in an enlightened one, he receives his due tribute of praise ; but in all the intermediate stages of barbarity and semi-barbarity, all such actions are overlooked."

The work before us, is the first volume in a new series of the Collections of the New York Historical Society ; and is almost exclusively taken up with the annals of the Dutch Colonists, "by whom the arts of civilization were originally planted on the banks of the Hudson." * It is true, that Chancellor Kent, in his "Anniversary Discourse," delivered before that Society in 1828, and which is included in this volume, describes the Dutch Colonial Annals as being of "a tame and pacific character, and generally dry and uninteresting." This was undoubtedly the case with most of those which were then known to the public, and of those only the worthy Chancellor was speaking ; but we think that any person who will faithfully examine the work now under consideration, will arrive at the conclusion, that, however "pacific" may be their general character, they are far from being uninteresting.

The gentleman, by whom this volume is understood to have been prepared, † has discharged this duty faithfully. A more valuable collection of early historical documents has not been published at any time in this country ; and, if its sale is in proportion to the merits of the production, the Society will have no reason to complain of having embarked in the expense of its publication.

As a frontispiece, we have a map of the New Netherlands, with a view of New Amsterdam (now New York), as it appeared in A. D. 1656. It is copied from the map of Vander Donck, and it appears from examination to be the same as the map drawn and published by Nicholas John Visscher, at Amsterdam, in 1659, — which latter is, however, upon a much larger scale. A small edition of Visscher's map has been republished in New York within the last seven or eight years. It is a great curiosity, and enables us to form some judgment of the strange ideas entertained by the early Dutch settlers in regard to the land in which their

* See Chancellor Kent's *Anniversary Discourse*, 1828.

† George Folsom, Esquire, of New York.

happy lot was cast. The map of Vander Donck only extends to the "Marquaa Kill," or the Mohawk River, and beyond that he has designated the country generally as "Quebecq," or the French possessions; while that of Vischer, on the contrary, extends the New Netherlands to the "Great River of the Canadas"; but yet, of that extended tract of country, he seems to have had no better idea than that entertained by his predecessor, for he gives us no names of places, rivers, or lakes, but merely fills up the space with figures of bears, deer, and other wild animals; and even the great lakes of Ontario, Erie, &c., are wanting, and in their places he has laid down two large rivers, running nearly parallel with each other. On both maps we find many names, retained at the present day, as "Kinder Hoeck," "Klaverrak," "Kats Kill," and others.

Another excellent and curious map of the whole country, claimed by the Dutch as the New Netherlands, is annexed to Lambrechtsen's valuable history of that country, published at Middleburg, Holland, in 1818, the outline of which is from the best map of Arrowsmith at that period, in which the old Indian and Dutch names are inserted from the ancient maps of Vander Donck and others; and those of headlands, bays, and islands, have also been compared with Arend Roggersen's "Marine Atlas."

The question of boundaries, and extent of territory, was always attended with great and serious difficulties from the first settlement of this country. Although the States-General of Holland, in the rules which they prescribed for the government of the West India Company in their foreign possessions, declared, that "the planters should be allowed to settle themselves freely on the coasts and along the banks of the navigable rivers, provided they satisfied the natives for the soil of which they took possession"—which condition was always rigidly adhered to,—yet we cannot find that the Dutch Colonial Government, or their inhabitants, ever extended their purchases of land from the Indians beyond the "Marquaa Kill." But still, probably, after the rule "never to lose any thing by not claiming enough," they extended their colony on their maps up to the river St. Lawrence; and the English, after their conquest in 1664, made and insisted upon the same claim. The French, on the other hand, appear to have disregarded those claims, as made both by the Dutch and the

English, and to have insisted, that the country belonged to them by right of discovery and possession. An examination of this claim of the French, and of the course they pursued to establish and perpetuate their dominion here, is a very interesting inquiry. In the first volume of Sanson's Great Atlas, published at Antwerp, in elephantine folio, about 1738, (we speak from recollection, not having the book before us,) is a map of North America, as published by the French geographer ; which shows, that they claimed all the country from the Canadas proper to the Gulf of Mexico, and almost up to the gates of Schenectady, taking in all of Ohio, and the Northwestern States, a large part of Virginia, with the Southwestern States, and indeed all the Valley of the Mississippi.

That they truly entertained the idea of enforcing their claim to this immense tract of country, is evident, from the numerous forts and trading-posts which they erected, extending in a line from Montreal to New Orleans ; and also from the numerous publications on that subject, both in France and England, from 1715 to 1765. And a grand scheme it was ; which, if it had been sustained by the French government at home with men and treasure, as it merited, would have crippled the English colonies, and, in a comparatively short period of time, have formed such a *cordon* of towns and fortified settlements around them, as they could not have got rid of but by an immense exertion of the whole force of the British Empire, if possible to be done at all. About the year 1754, the result of this policy on the part of the French government in confining the English colonies to a narrow strip of land bordering on the Atlantic coast, became so apparent, that resistance could be no longer delayed ; and this gave rise to the Congress of Albany, in 1754, the first ever held by the American colonies, and to the subsequent wars, which ended in the conquest of the Canadas. The proceedings of that Congress show, that the colonies had become thoroughly awakened to the overpowering necessity of arresting at once the progress of the French in America. After taking into consideration the situation of the English settlements, they represented to the Crown,

“ that it was the evident design of the French to surround the British colonies ; to fortify themselves on the back thereof ; to take and keep possession of the heads of all the important rivers ; to draw over the Indians to their interest, and,

with the help of such Indians, added to such forces as were then arrived, and might afterwards arrive, or be sent from Europe, to be in a capacity of making a general attack on the several governments ; and, if at the same time a strong naval force should be sent from France, there was the utmost danger that the whole continent would be subjected to that Crown."

Numerous traces of French enterprise are still to be seen throughout the great valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi, in their ancient settlements, and in the language, manners, and customs of the people. Fort Du Quesne, now Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania, was one of the most formidable of this line or *cordon* of forts and trading-posts. Another portion of it, still existing, is the village of Cahokia, in Illinois ; in which is a church, built by the French settlers in 1698, having "battled with the storms of more than a century." The bell which hangs in its tower was brought from France more than a century and a half ago, and still, on every Sabbath morn, calls the people to the offices of praise and thanksgiving, as it has done for ages past. Numerous other instances might be cited, but it is needless ; every traveller through that district of country can call them to mind.

It is a curious and valuable historical fact, not generally known, that Thomas Jenkins, Esquire, in 1763, submitted to the British ministry a project to prevent the emancipation of the American colonies, and to retain them for ever in their obedience to the crown. His first proposition was, the keeping on foot most of the troops then in America, which were soon after disbanded or recalled at the peace. The forts, which were scattered along the Indian frontier, and which were afterwards demolished or abandoned, were to be preserved. New ones were to be erected on the coast, *ostensibly* against the invasions of the French. The lands granted to the veterans were always to be within the precincts of a fort, which, on the frontiers especially, must very soon have formed respectable military townships. Jenkins was well acquainted with America, from a residence of considerable length in Pennsylvania and the Carolinas, and he also had some employment in the English army that conquered Canada ; which enabled him to become conversant with the operation of the policy of the French ; and it was

their scheme, somewhat modified, which he thus proposed to the consideration of Lord Bute and his associates. Providence, however, so ordered matters, that the English ministry did not regard this project with any favor, and, by rejecting it, facilitated the progress of the American Revolution.

We have been so long taught to regard the trade of the American colonies previous to our Revolution as trifling, that we are sometimes in doubt as to what could have been the reasons, which actuated two mighty nations to contest with so much pertinacity for the possession of a wilderness. But in that belief of the trifling amount of the early American trade, we are in great error. It was in truth of much importance; and so much so, that, to obtain this trade to themselves exclusively, was the cause of many wars, and much diplomatic chicanery, between England, France, and Spain.

The French, during the three quarters of a century they were in possession of that country, kept up an extensive trade with the Indians, with whom they were on friendly terms, and with their mother country. They also in Illinois cultivated the grape with much success; and it is recorded, that, in 1769, they there manufactured one hundred and ten hogsheads of wine. From the dedication of a very pretty little work, called "*Puckle's Club*," printed at London in the year 1733, it appears, that the duties and customs paid by Micajah Perry, Thomas Lane, and Richard Perry, of London, three "*Virginia merchants*," during the year 1698-9, to the crown of Great Britain, amounted to two hundred and sixty thousand pounds sterling. This amount of duties and customs was paid by them for the articles which they imported from America, and from England sent to other portions of the world, and for goods which they exported to this continent during that single year, commencing March 15th, 1698, and ending March 15th, 1699. This Micajah Perry was an alderman of the city of London in 1740; and in that year was nominated, at a meeting of the Livery at Vintner's Hall, as one of the representatives of the city in Parliament. The term "*Virginia merchant*," about that period, and for some considerable time previous, was a very honorable appellation in the mercantile world, and appropriated to a particular class of men, as much as titles of nobility are in the present day. So in the "*Gentleman's Maga-*

zine," for July, 1740, in the list of marriages, we find that of "Mr. Buchanan, Virginia merchant, to Miss Wilson." For commercial purposes, that title, for so it was in reality, was applied to merchants trading with the colonies between New England and Florida, and with the West Indies. Previously to our revolutionary war, the Virginia merchants of Glasgow in Scotland were looked up to as an aristocracy; they had a privileged walk at the Cross, which they trod in long scarlet cloaks and bushy wigs; and such was then the state of society, that when any of the most respectable master tradesmen had occasion to speak to those merchant lords, he was required to walk on the other side of the street, till he was fortunate enough to meet the eye of the patrician, for it would have been presumption to approach him. The foregoing statements exhibit the colonial trade as being at that early period any thing but limited or trifling. And when we consider for but one moment, we see that it could not have been limited; for almost every article which the colonists made use of in that part of the country above mentioned, except their bread stuffs, and sometimes even those, were imported from Europe. They manufactured scarcely any thing for themselves; and it was the European colonial policy at all times, to prevent them, in the words of one of their legislators, from making among themselves "even a hobnail"; and to oblige them to export through the mother country all their products. With such a policy, and the rapid increase of the colonies in population almost immediately after their settlement, the trade with them must necessarily have been very extensive and important.

So strongly imbued were the political economists of Europe with this colonial policy, that even after our revolutionary contest, many of them were inclined to regard the results of that policy as arising from the natural state of this country, rather than from the curbs and restraints imposed upon the activity and energy of the people. And about the year 1790, most of the European writers in relation to the United States regarded this country as purely agricultural, and as destined from natural causes ever to remain so. The Abbé Raynal, we think, went so far as to hold, that the United States could never advance beyond the condition of a purely agricultural people; and that the character of the soil was

such, that not more than ten millions of inhabitants could obtain a reasonable subsistence from even that pursuit.

The old map of Vander Donck has led us in quite a discursive route, but we trust not entirely uninformative; for much of the matter of which we have discoursed by the way, — in rather a colloquial manner, we admit, — is not to be met with in any history that we have ever seen.

The first article in this volume is the “Anniversary Discourse” delivered by Chancellor Kent before the Historical Society, on the 6th of December, 1838, of which it is only necessary to say, that it sustains the high reputation as a writer hitherto acquired by that distinguished jurist. In it he pays a merited compliment to the exertions of the associations of a similar character in other States, “and particularly in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania”; speaks of them as having “hitherto surpassed us in the extent and value of their researches”; and expresses the hope, that the Society he was addressing would feel an additional stimulus to acquit themselves of their duty, and throw back upon the annals of the Empire State, “some of the light and lustre which emanate from the spirit of the age.” The volume now before us is an evidence, that the hope thus expressed is not doomed to disappointment.

This discourse presents an able and concise view of the domestic history of New York, with reflections necessarily arising from the subject.

Chancellor Kent takes a very proper view of the importance of such historical inquiries, and one which cannot in our judgment be commended too highly to the consideration of our citizens. He observes;

“The Eastern descendants of the pilgrims are justly proud of their colonial ancestors; and they are wisely celebrating, on all proper occasions, the memory and merits of the original founders of their republics, in productions of great genius and classical taste.”

He asks, —

“Why should we, in this State, continue any longer comparatively heedless of our own glory, when we also can point to a body of illustrious annals?”

And, — as offering a strong inducement to exertion, — while portraying the character of the original Dutch settlers, he

speaks of the origin of his city and State, in the following beautiful manner ;

“ Our origin is within the limits of well-attested history. This at once dissipates the enchantments of fiction ; and we are not permitted, like the nations of ancient Europe, to deduce our lineage from super-human beings, or to clothe the sage and heroic spirits, who laid the foundations of our Empire, with the exaggerations and lustre of poetical invention. Nor do we stand in need of the aid of such machinery. It is a sufficient honor to be able to appeal to the simple and severe records of truth. The Dutch discoverers and settlers of New Netherlands, were grave, temperate, firm, persevering men, who brought with them the industry, the economy, the simplicity, the integrity, and the bravery of their Belgic sires ; and with those virtues they also imported the lights of the Roman civil law, and the purity of the Protestant faith. To that period we are to look with chastened awe and respect, for the beginnings of our city, and the works of our primitive fathers, — our *Albani patres, atque allæ mœnia Romæ*. ”

The second article which presents itself, is the celebrated Voyage of John De Verrazzano, along the North American coast, from Carolina to Newfoundland, in the year 1524. This appears in the original Italian, and also in a good translation, made by Joseph G. Cogswell, Esquire, a member of the Society. This account of Verrazzano's first voyage to the Western continent is in a letter written by him to Francis the First, of France, by whose order he had undertaken it. The translation is said to be made from a copy of the original manuscript existing in the Magliabecchian Library, at Florence, presented to the Society by G. W. Greene, Esquire, Consul of the United States at Rome.

This document is in itself very interesting, and becomes more important from the fact of its being the earliest original account of the Atlantic coast of the United States now in existence. It is worthy of remark, that the name by which this continent is now known, is not used by Verrazzano in his description of his voyage. On this point we would here remark, that in Apiani's “ Cosmography,” a very curious work, printed in 4to., at Antwerp, in 1564, — and containing one of the oldest maps of the World, upon which the continents of North and South America are laid down, that we have had the good fortune to meet with, — what we now call North America is described as a narrow tongue of land projecting

from the Southern continent, with a handsome open north-eastern passage to the East Indies, and is designated as "Baccalao"; while South America is accurately marked out with its present form, and called "America," — showing, that, although South America was at that time pretty well known, there was a complete ignorance in respect to the Northern continent, excepting portions of its Atlantic coast. And what renders the matter more curious is, that Campanella, in his advice to the king of Spain, on the establishment of an Universal Monarchy, (translated into English, and published with a preface, by the celebrated William Prynne, 4to., London, 1659,) speaks of North America by the name of "Bacalaos." The Portuguese to this day, call dried cod-fish "bacalao." It may be, that the fish has derived its name from the ancient name of the country from which it was brought.

Verrazzano gives us a very interesting account of the people whom he met with in coasting along this country. He exhibits them in their natural state, as they appeared before they were contaminated and debased by an intercourse with Europeans. If our readers derive one half the gratification from the perusal of his account of them, that we have, they will not only excuse, but thank us for affording them the opportunity. It should not, however, prevent them from procuring the book itself, for there are many gems of this nature, which it would not be just, if it was our province, to select. After describing his coasting along the shore, he says;

"The inhabitants being numerous, we saw everywhere a multitude of fires. While at anchor on this coast, there being no harbour to enter, we sent a boat on shore with twenty-five men to obtain water, but it was not possible to land without endangering the boat, on account of the immense high surf thrown up by the sea, as it was an open roadstead. Many of the natives came to the beach, indicating by various friendly signs that we might trust ourselves on shore. One of their noble deeds of friendship deserves to be made known to your Majesty. A young sailor was attempting to swim ashore through the surf to carry them some knick-knacks, as little bells, looking-glasses, and other like trifles; when he came near three or four of them he tossed the things to them, and turned about to get back to the boat, but he was thrown over by the waves, and so dashed about that he lay, as it were, dead upon the beach. When those people saw him in this situation, they ran and took him up by the head, legs, and arms, and

carried him to a distance from the surf ; the young man, finding himself borne off in this way, uttered very loud shrieks in fear and dismay, while they answered as they could in their language, showing him that he had no cause for fear. Afterwards they laid him down at the foot of a little hill, when they took off his shirt and trowsers, and examined him, expressing the greatest astonishment at the whiteness of his skin. Our sailors in the boat seeing a great fire made up, and their companion placed very near it, full of fear, as is usual in all cases of novelty, imagined that the natives were about to roast him for food. But as soon as he had recovered his strength, after a short stay with them, showing by signs that he wished to return aboard, they hugged him with great affection, and accompanied him to the shore ; then leaving him, that he might feel more secure, they withdrew to a little hill, from which they watched him until he was safe in the boat. This young man remarked that these people were black like the others, that they had shining skins, middle stature, and sharper faces, and very delicate bodies and limbs, and that they were inferior in strength, but quick in their minds." — pp. 43, 44.

It is well here to remark, that the early navigators were accustomed to call all people darker than themselves, " of black or dark complexion."

At a distance of fifty leagues from the spot where the adventure before narrated occurred, but at what particular locality we are unable from the vagueness of his description now to determine, Verrazzano describes the country as having "many vines growing naturally, which entwine about the trees, and run up upon them as they do in the plains of Lombardy." And of them, he says ;

"These vines would doubtless produce excellent wine if they were properly cultivated and attended to, as we have often seen the grapes which they produce, very sweet and pleasant, and not unlike our own. They must be held in estimation by them, as they carefully remove the shrubbery from around them, wherever they grow, to allow the fruit to ripen better. We found also wild roses, violets, lilies, and many sorts of plants and fragrant flowers different from our own." — p. 45.

Those of our readers who are acquainted with the voyages of the Northmen to Vinland, will recognise a great similarity between their description of the country, and that above extracted from Verrazzano.

Towards the close of this account of his voyage, Verraz-

zано describes a harbour which he visited on our coast, as "situated in the parallel of Rome, being $41^{\circ} 40'$ of North latitude," — which, he says, looks towards the south, with a large bay, twenty leagues in circumference, "in which are five small islands of great fertility and beauty, covered with large and lofty trees. Among these islands any fleet, however large, might ride safely, without fear of tempest or other dangers."

Dr. Samuel Miller, in his "Discourse before the New York Historical Society," published in the first volume of the former series of their Collections, regarded this description as applicable to the bay and harbour of New York. And Lambrechtsen in his "Description of the New Netherlands," anxious as he is to give the honor of the first discovery to Hudson, and with all his ardor for the glory of Dutch seamanship, examines the question with much care; and, although he propounds some doubts and reasons in opposition to Verrazzano's claim, by no means comes to a satisfactory result against it. The editor of the volume now under consideration, with much reason on his side, thinks the description given by Verrazzano applies to Narraganset Bay, and the harbour of Newport, in Rhode Island, and not to that of New York. We are rather inclined to be of his opinion, upon the hasty examination we have given to the question; but do not wish to conclude ourselves on that point. *

We are next presented with the Indian tradition of the first arrival of Europeans at Manhattan Island, derived from the manuscripts deposited among the Collections of the Society, by the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., to whom it was communicated by the Rev. John Heckewelder, the cele-

*It is supposed that Verrazzano first arrived on the American coast about Wilmington, in North Carolina; from which point he proceeded south to Georgia, and then changed his course, and voyaged northward to about latitude 40° north, where he entered the harbour we have above described.

It is curious to witness the anxiety manifested by some writers, to secure to their own country the glory of having produced the original discoverer of this continent. As

"Seven famous cities strove for Homer dead,
Through which the living Homer begg'd his bread," —

so it was with Columbus. Disregarded and wronged in life, he was glorified and honored when dead; and, as if to carry out the parallel with the Grecian poet, in the preface to Molloy, *De Jure Maritimo*, the author affirms, that Columbus was *born* in England, but resided at Genoa.

brated Moravian missionary among the Indians of Pennsylvania, who has left us a valuable historical account of those Aborigines, and of the exertions of the Moravian missionaries for their religious improvement, and their culture in morals and civilization. In a letter which accompanies this tradition, Mr. Heckewelder says ; " As I receive my information from Indians, in their language and style, I return it in the same way. *Facts* are all I aim at, and, from my knowledge of the Indians, I do not believe every one's story. The enclosed account is, I believe, as authentic as any thing of the kind can be obtained."

In this tradition it is stated, that all the Indians became intoxicated, during which time the whites confined themselves to their ships. It is said that the Delaware Indians to this day call New York Island by the name of *Mannahattanink*, or *Mannahachtanink*, which any one will see is the origin of the present name of Manhattan. And they frequently told the missionary, Heckewelder, that it derived its name from this general intoxication ; and that the meaning of that word was, the *island* or *place of general intoxication*. Heckewelder also states, that the Mahicanders of the Dutch, and the Mohiggans of the English, had the same name for this island ; but they thought it derived its origin from a kind of wood which grew there, of which they formed their bows and arrows, — which wood they called *gawaak*. This is not in our judgment so probable a derivation as that given by the Delawares.

We are next presented with Lambrechtsen's " Short Description of the Discovery and Subsequent History of the New Netherlands, a Colony in America (at an early period) of the Republic of the United Netherlands," which was printed at Middleburg, Holland, in 1818, in the Dutch language ; and is translated by the late Francis A. Vander Kemp, honorary member of this Society. It is an able political history of the colony, possessing a high degree of interest for all who delight in the enterprising character and manly virtues of the first settlers of this country. It is a work but little known even to the literary world, and the Society deserve the thanks of the community for having introduced it to the American public. At an early period, in June, 1819, * we

* See *North American Review*, Vol. IX. pp. 77 et seq.

gave a review of this History, while it yet remained in the Dutch language untranslated, to which we now refer our readers.

In the Introductory Note to this article in the volume now under review, it is stated, that Lambrechtsen,

“who is believed to be still living, is a gentleman of considerable rank and reputation in his own country, having been Grand Pensionary of Zealand, and connected with many learned societies in Europe ; he is also well known to many of our countrymen, who have visited Holland. In 1816 he applied to this Society, through a gentleman at Amsterdam, for information, concerning the early history of this city and State [New York], when the Corresponding Secretary was directed to forward him a copy of the two volumes of Collections then published. He was, at the same time, elected an honorary member ; from which circumstance, he was probably led to dedicate his work to the Society, together with others to which he sustained a similar relation.” — p. 76.

The translator, Vander Kemp, who is described in Spafford's “ Gazetteer of the State of New York,” as “a fine classical scholar, and a volunteer patriot in the cause of America while struggling for independence,” was the same gentleman to whom Governor De Witt Clinton, in 1818, confided the translating of the ancient Dutch records of that State, — which he completed in twenty-five volumes, now extant in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany, and forming “an invaluable repository of materials for the future historian.”

In this rich collection of historical works relating to the colony of New York, Adriaen Vander Donck's “Description of the New Netherlands, (as the same are at the present time,)” (second edition, Amsterdam, 1656,) has the next place. Vander Donck came to this country in 1642, and, after residing for some time at Albany, he purchased a tract of land on the Hudson river, sixteen miles from the city of New York, at a place now known as *Yonkers*, which derived its name from him. He was familiarly called *the Yonker*, a common appellation for *gentleman* among the Dutch farmers. One of his grants of land at that place was made to him in 1648, under the name of Jonker (pronounced Yonker) Vander Donck, — and his estate was afterwards described in the colonial records as *the Yonker's land*.

This is the first time that his History has appeared in print in the English language, although a translation of it was prepared many years ago by the late Rev. John Bassett, D. D., formerly of Albany. The present translation is by Jeremiah Johnson, Esquire, of Brooklyn, New York. It is an interesting work, and although Lambrechtsen acknowledges some obligations, far less however than he had anticipated, to this history, we are inclined to think that many of our readers will be pleased with the plain, and, at times, curious descriptions which the author gives of the new country in which he was settled.

Of the fruit trees, which had been brought into this country by the Dutch settlers, he says,

“ We have introduced morecotoons, (a kind of peach,) apricots, several sorts of the best plums, almonds, persimmons, cornelian cherries, figs, several sorts of currants, gooseberries, calissiens, and thorn apples ; and we doubt not but that the olive would thrive and be profitable, but we have them not ; although the land is full of many kinds of grapes, we still want settings of the best kinds from Germany, for the purpose of enabling our wine-planters here to select the best kinds, and to propagate the same.” — p. 153.

If almonds and figs grew and ripened in the open air, it is singular they should have been lost entirely ; as the persimmon, which is mentioned as a fruit introduced from Holland, and cultivated in the colony, has now, since its cultivation has been discontinued, become wild in the woods in the vicinity of New York, and still yields its fruit abundantly, and is brought in the autumn to the markets of that city. One of the most striking characteristics of the country discovered by the Northmen in their early voyages, was the abundance of grapes, from which circumstance they named it *Vinland* ; and here we have evidence, that this tract of country, when settled by the Dutch, “ was full of many kinds of grapes.”* And our author, speaking of these grapes, says, “ It is gratifying and wonderful to see these natural produc-

* We would here observe, by the way, that Vander Donck in his article, — “ How men and animals came on the American Continent,” — shows clearly to our mind, that the report of voyages of the Northmen to this continent, was then known to literary men in Europe, out of Norway and Sweden, and believed in by some, if not by many, of them.

tions, and to observe such excellent and lovely fruit growing wild." And he further remarks, that "the country, when the vines are in bloom, is perfumed with the lovely fragrance of the blossoms, and it is delightful to travel at this season of the year."

What a beautiful description this is of our New World. We could almost wish to have lived in that age, if only to stroll along the bridle-roads, and Indian paths, and inhale "the lovely fragrance" of the grape blossoms. This portion of the country about New York is celebrated in all the ancient historical works treating of it, for its rich natural covering of flowers. In Denton's account (1670), the first work describing that colony under the English, a considerable portion is occupied in a beautiful picture of Long Island, which he styles a natural garden, and of parties, which we should now call *pic-nics*, making excursions through its verdant fields, to gather and eat the wild strawberries, and other fruits, then existing in great abundance.

If the climate of New York was at that period so mild, as to induce the colonists to believe they could successfully cultivate the olive, as an article of commerce, as would seem to be inferrible from what our author says on that subject, it would appear as if some change had taken place, and that not a favorable one, in the climate of some portion, at least, of our Atlantic coast. Smith, in his "History of New York," the first edition of which was published in 1732, insists, that the seasons have changed in this country. And we might here observe, that we have heard it remarked in support of that theory, that the farmers in the western part of the State of New York, have been induced to make a change in their mode of culture in consequence of this alteration of the seasons; that since about the year 1820, maize, or Indian corn, which they previously raised without any difficulty, has become a very uncertain crop, by reason of the cold summers, and early frosts in the autumn; and that they are not now able to raise several kinds of trees, as the weeping willow, the acacia, the alanthus, &c., which formerly grew in that district of country. We are gratified to learn, however, that for the last two years, the indications have been more favorable, — that the summers have been much warmer, and the appearance of the fall frosts delayed for a longer period than had been experienced for many years previous.

And we trust, that the unfavorable change indicated in that district, will be temporary in its operation and effects ; and that the more propitious seasons, which have been recently experienced, will be continued for a long time to come. Notwithstanding the recent favorable indications in Western New York, we believe they are not now able to produce in the open air, the sweet-water grape, or the black Hamburg, which, some twenty-five years ago, they raised with ease. The change has been even more marked in the Southern States, than in New York, or its vicinity. About thirty-five years ago, oranges grew abundantly in North Carolina, and now they cannot be raised in Georgia, and have even become an uncertain crop in the north part of Florida. At St. Mary's, nearly on the line between Georgia and Florida, for about seven years previous to the great frost of 1835, the orange trees appeared to be healthy and were covered with a profusion of blossoms, but yielded no fruit ; and in 1835, they were all cut off. So the yam was also formerly raised in great abundance in the southern part of Georgia, and now it will not grow there, any more than in New England.

Vander Donck seems to have had a strong love for natural objects, for trees, and botanical inquiries generally, which form the most pleasant portions of his work. In one place he complains, that the Indians destroy the chestnut trees "by stripping off the bark for covering for their houses." And in another place, he finds fault with what we should consider rather a strange process of nutting, by the Netherlanders felling the trees, and cutting off the limbs to gather the nuts. He tells us of a "certain honorable gentleman, named John Everts Bout," who laid a wager that he would raise a crop of barley, the ears of which "could be easily tied together above his head ;" and who, when he went to see the barley, found, "that the straw, band by band, was from six to seven feet high, and very little of it any shorter."

But it was not alone to the natural products of the soil, that this writer extended his examination. He also describes the minerals found in that ancient colony, and gives us a curious story about a gold mine, somewhere in the vicinity of Albany ; but where particularly, none of the money-diggers after the ill-gotten gold of the famous pirate Robert Kidd, and other secreted treasure, have as yet been able to discover. It appears, that in 1645, the author and some officers were

employed at Albany, in negotiating a treaty with the Mohawk Indians, "the strongest and fiercest Indian nation of the country;" at which, the Governor, William Kieft, and the Indian chiefs, attended. An Indian with a barbarous name, "well known to the Christians," was employed as interpreter. Vander Donck then proceeds ;

"As the Indians are generally disposed to paint and ornament their faces with several brilliant colors, it happened on a certain morning, that this Indian interpreter, who lodged in the Director's house, came down stairs, and in the presence of the Director and myself, sat down, and began stroking and painting his face. The Director observed the operation, and requested me to inquire of the Indian what substance he was using, which he handed to me, and I passed it to the Director, who examined the same attentively, and judged from its weight and from its greasy and shining appearance, that the lump contained some valuable metal, for which I commuted with the Indian, to ascertain what it contained. We acted with it, according to the best of our judgment, and gave the same to be proved by a skilful doctor of medicine, named Johannes La Montagne, of the Council of the New Netherlands. The lump of mineral was put into a crucible, which was placed in a fire, and after the same, (according to my opinion,) had been in the fire long enough, it was taken out, when it delivered *two pieces of gold*, worth about three guilders. This proof was kept secret." — p. 161.

The Editor supposes the mineral thus found was probably *pyrites*, mistaken for gold. In this conclusion, we cannot agree with him, for we cannot conceive how it could possibly be pyrites, when it yielded those "two pieces of gold." Vander Donck was a Doctor of Laws, and must have been a man of considerable learning to have obtained that degree in Holland at that period ; and it does seem to us, that his general information, as shown by his work, must have been sufficient to enable him to detect the difference between gold and copper.

The Doctor further states, that,

"After the peace was made, (with the Indians,) an officer with a few men were sent to the Berg mountain, to which the Indian directed them, for a quantity of the mineral, who returned with about a bucket full, intermingled with stones, as they deemed best. They did not observe, that the place from which they took the earth had been dug before. Of this min-

eral several experiments were made, which proved as good as the first. We supposed that we had secured the discovery safely. The Director General thought proper to embrace the first opportunity to send a small quantity of the mineral to the Netherlands, for which purpose he despatched a man named Arent Corsen, with a bag of the mineral to New Haven, to take passage in an English ship for England, and to proceed to Holland. This vessel sailed at Christmas, and was lost at sea. Misfortune attended all on board." — p. 162.

Specimens of this gold seem to have been peculiarly unfortunate, and were destined never to reach the mother country.

After the loss of the ship with all on board,

"the Director General, William Kieft, left the New Netherlands for the Netherlands, in the year 1647, on board the ship *Princess*, taking with him specimens of the proved minerals, and of several others. *This ship was also lost*, and the minerals remained in the sea." — *Ibid.*

This work of Vander Donck was written in Holland, and, in order to place the existence of the mine beyond doubt, he observes ;

"Now we have Cornelius Van Tienhoven for Secretary of the New Netherlands. Being here in Holland, he states that he had tested several specimens of the mineral, which proved satisfactory ; the subject therefore need not be doubted." — *Ibid.*

However well the existence of such a mine may be regarded as having been thus established, it is now lost, and no record or tradition remains designating its locality. It is better it should be so for the morals and industry of the people. It was probably the belief in the existence of this mine, that occasioned the first introduction of the reservation of mines, in the leases granted in the manor of Rensselaerwyck, the settlement of which had already commenced.

Vander Donck appears to have been acquainted with the existence of the great iron mines in the Northern portion of the State of New York, a fact which adds much weight to his observations in relation to minerals generally, showing him to have been an accurate observer of the country. He remarks ;

"We find in the country up drifts, and signs of many mines, but mostly of iron." — *Ibid.*

He then affords us an evidence of the intelligence and enterprise of the inhabitants of New England at that very early period of our annals, being previous to the year 1656, which, we think, will astonish many, even of those who are conversant with the history of the old "United Colonies"; and will also prove how much better and richer is a mine of iron to an industrious people, than one of gold. He tells us;

"The people of New England already cast their own cannon, plates, pots, and cannon balls, from native iron." — *Ibid.*

In describing the wild animals of the New Netherlands, he gives that country, from the statements of the Mohawk Indians, the honor of producing the celebrated *unicorn*, of which so much has been written pro and con, — and which the world was gradually sitting down to regard as fabulous, like the griffins and basilisks of old, when some modern accounts from Africa revived a belief of its true existence to a considerable extent. But let the Doctor speak for himself.

"I have been frequently told by the Mohawk Indians, that, far in the interior parts of the country, there were animals which were seldom seen, of the size and form of horses, with cloven hoofs, *having one horn in the forehead*, from a foot and a half to two feet in length, and that, because of their fleetness and strength, they were seldom caught or ensnared. I have never seen any certain token or sign of such animals, but that such creatures exist in the country, is supported by the concurrent declaration of the Indian hunters. There are Christians, who say that they have seen the skins of this species of animal, but without the horns." — p. 169.

We should not be surprised at such statements, and regard the promulgers of them as simple and credulous men. Every age has its peculiar characteristics, distinguishing it from every other period that precedes, or follows it. So this was the age of wonders, when the Bermuda Isles,

"the still vexed Bermoothes"

of Shakspeare, were considered as the habitation of spirits,* who raised mighty storms, to prevent mortals from invading their peculiar domain. And it was upon this belief, that the great monarch of the English drama founded his play of

* *The Isle of Devils*, as the Bermudas were generally called by the seamen of Shakspeare's day.

“The Tempest.” Blome, in his “American Colonies,” published at London, in 1687, describes the island of Dominica as inaccessible to voyagers, except on the beach, from the great numbers of dragons and serpents, which were to be seen basking on the rocks above the shore. But, to come still nearer home, the remains of the mammoth, or of the mastodon, which were then occasionally met with, excited special wonder ; and, since geology, as a science, had not then begun its existence, strange and wonderful theories were formed to account for them. Among these, not the least strange is that given us in the following letter from Governor Dudley to the Rev. Cotton Mather, dated “Roxbury, July 10th, 1706.”

“I was surprised, a few days since, with a present laid before me from Albany, by two honest Dutchmen, inhabitants of that city, which was a certain tooth, accompanied with some other pieces of bone, which being but fragments, without any points whereby they might be determined to what animals they did belong, I could make nothing of them ; but the tooth was of the perfect form of the eye tooth of a man, with four prongs or roots, and six distinct faces or flats on the top, a little worn, and all perfectly smoothed with grinding. I suppose all the surgeons in town have seen it, and I am perfectly of opinion it was a *human tooth*. I measured it, and as it stood upright it was six inches high lacking one eighth, and round, thirteen inches lacking one eighth. And its weight in the scale was two pounds and four ounces, troy weight. One of the same growth, but not of equal weight, was last year presented to my Lord Cornbury, and another, of the same figure exactly, showed at Hartford, of near a pound weight more than this.

“Upon examination of the two Dutchmen, they tell me the said tooth and bones were taken up under the bank of Hudson’s river, some miles below the city of Albany, about fifty leagues from the sea, about foot below the surface of the earth, in a place where the freshet does every year rake and waste the bank, and that there is a plain discoloration of the ground, for seventy-five foot long at least, different from the earth in color and substance, which is judged by everybody that see it, to be the ruins and dust of the body that bore these teeth and bones. I am perfectly of opinion, that *the tooth will agree only to a human body*, for whom the flood only would prepare a funeral ; and without doubt he waded as long as he could keep his head above the clouds, but must at length be

confounded with all other creatures, and the new sediment after the flood gave him the depth we now find.

“I remember to have read somewhere, a tradition of the Jewish Rabbins, that the issues of those unequal matches between heaven and earth at the beginning, were such whose heads reached the clouds, who are therefore called *Nephelim*, and their issue were *Geborim*, who shrunk away to the *Raphaim*, who were then found not to be invincible, but fell before less men, the sons of the East, in several places besides Canaan.

“I am not presently satisfied of what rank or classis this fellow was, but I am sure not of the last, for Goliath was not half so many feet, as this was ells long.

“The distance from the sea takes away all pretension of its being a whale or animal of the sea, as well as the figure of the tooth; nor can it be any remains of an elephant; the shape of the tooth and admeasurement of the body in the ground will not allow that.

“There is nothing left but to repair to those antique doctors for his origin, and to allow Dr. Burnet and Dr. Whiston to bury him at the deluge; and, if he were what he shows, he will be seen again at or after the conflagration, further to be examined.”

Notwithstanding this most extraordinary manner of accounting for the teeth and bones of the mammoth, Governor Dudley was a man of much learning and of a sound, discriminating mind. The error was not so much his, as that of the age in which he lived; and serves to show how very apt most intelligent persons were, about two centuries ago, to run into the marvellous. They had not then the benefits resulting from the recent examinations of geologists throughout the world. Otherwise they would hardly have looked beyond the species of the mammoth, or the mastodon, for the true owner of those relics; or have been tempted to indulge the fancy of men, whose heads towered above the clouds, and who required a deluge to drown them. This belief was not, by any means, confined to this country, but also existed at one period in full force in England. There is now preserved in the Cottonian Library in the British Museum, an Essay, written to prove, that giants formerly inhabited the island of Great Britain.

To go from the greatest to the least, — from the giant to the smallest of all the feathered race, — we find, that the beau-

tiful little humming-bird attracted the attention of the early Dutch colonists, and it seems to have puzzled them greatly to make out whether it was a *bird* or a *bee*. Vander Donck says, that it is a "small, curious bird, concerning which there are disputations, whether it is a bird, or a large West India bee;" that "its feathers are of various shining colors;" that "it sucks its nourishment from flowers like the bees;" and that "it is everywhere seen on the flowers, regaling itself; hence it has obtained the name of 'the West India bee.' In flying, they make a humming noise like the bees."

It is a singular fact in natural history, that the honey-bee made its appearance in this country after its settlement by Europeans. The Indians were so strongly impressed with this belief, that they called it "the white man's fly." And so too the gray rat, and the crow, are said to follow the settlements of civilized man.

Vander Donck has a long and interesting account of the Indians, and their manners and customs, as they then existed in the New Netherlands, subdivided into twenty-two heads. Under the head, "of their Feast Days and Particular Assemblies," he gives us the following very curious account of the mode in which they "counsel the devil on some approaching event."

"When they wish to hunt or drive the devil (as they do by *spooking* and deception), then they assemble in the afternoon towards evening, and then some of them do, most singularly indeed, endeavour to enchant and charm the devil and carry on witchcraft, wherein the common people believe. They begin with jumping, crying, and grinning, as if they were possessed and mad. They kindle large fires, and dance around and over the same, lengthwise and across; they roll, tumble overhead, and bend themselves, and continue their violent exercises until the sweat pours out and streams down to their feet. By their distortions and hideous acts, they appear like devils themselves; their awful conduct will astonish those who are not accustomed to see them. During these operations, all their devil-drivers join in the rolling and howling, when they altogether appear to be crazy. When their charming has continued some time, then the devil, as they say, appears to them in the form of a beast. If the beast be a ravenous animal, it is a bad omen; if it be a harmless creature, the sign is better; the animal gives them strange answers to their inquiries, but seldom so clear and distinct, that they can comprehend or in-

terpret the same, which, however, they strike at, as a blind man does at an egg. If they interpret the answers incorrectly, the fault is theirs. Sometimes they utter things beyond the devil's texts. If there be any Christians present on those occasions, who observe all their doings, then their devil will not appear. Their devil-drivers sometimes bewitch some of their common people, and cause them to appear possessed or besotted, which otherwise is not seen, when they cast themselves into glowing fires without feeling it." — p. 203.

David Pieterszen de Vries, extracts from whose "Voyages to the Dutch Colonies on the Banks of the Hudson," at an early period of their existence, form the sixth article in this volume of Collections, was a distinguished man in his day, being Master of Artillery in the service of the United Provinces of Holland, and one of the founders of those colonies. In the enterprise of founding colonies, in 1630, he was associated with De Laet, the historian and geographer of the New World, Van Rensselaer, the founder of the colony and manor of that name in the vicinity of Albany, and several other gentlemen, who also became patroons.

The first enterprise of De Vries was the original settlement of what is now the State of Delaware. He was unfortunate, however, in his attempts at colonizing, having found, on his return from Holland, that his colony was destroyed, and not a solitary survivor left to narrate its fate. Not discouraged by this reverse, in 1634, he attempted to establish another colony on the coast of Guiana, which also proved unsuccessful. Still persevering with all the indomitable spirit which characterized the bold and skilful navigators of that glorious period of the Batavian republic, when her maritime supremacy spread over the world, he made another, and his last voyage, in 1638, to the New Netherlands, for the purpose of planting a colony on Staten Island, in the harbour of New York, of which he had obtained a grant from the West India Company. Failing in this enterprise from want of settlers, he resided for some time on a plantation on Manhattan Island, until the spring of 1640, when he made a voyage up the North River to Fort Orange, now Albany.

This excursion was undertaken for the purpose of examining the country, and purchasing lands of the Indians; and he was fourteen days in making his passage up that river. The length of time occupied in making this excursion of

one hundred and sixty-five miles may appear extraordinary to us in these days of railways and steamboats. We should, however, bear in mind, that, even within the present century, it frequently took from one week to ten days to perform the same passage. When, about 1799, Oliver Evans, whose capacious mind seemed to embrace the future, as well as the present and past, in looking upon the probable advance of the United States, predicted, "The time will come when people will travel in stages, moved by steam-engines, from one city to another, almost as fast as birds fly, fifteen or twenty miles per hour; passing through the air with such velocity, changing the scene in such rapid succession, will be the most rapid, exhilarating exercise; a carriage [steam] will set out from Washington in the morning; the passengers will breakfast at Baltimore, dine at Philadelphia, and sup in New York the same day; engines will drive boats ten or twelve miles per hour; and there will be many hundred steamboats running on the Mississippi, as predicted years ago," almost every one thought him deranged in his intellects, and that "too much learning had made him mad." But yet his predictions as to the railways, and the speed of steam-carriages or locomotives, are now fulfilled; and his prophetic declaration as to the steam navigation of the Mississippi, made at a time when that river and its tributaries passed through a country almost an entire wilderness, and when a steamboat was not known in the world, except in the crude attempt and failure of the unfortunate John Fitch, have been triumphantly realized. His anticipations, as to the speed with which those boats could be propelled, have been greatly exceeded. He limited it to ten or twelve miles an hour; and now it is usual for the steamboats plying on the Hudson river, between New York and Albany, to run at the rate of from fifteen to eighteen miles an hour. And the same passage, which occupied De Vries fourteen days, has been made in several instances, recently, in from eight and a half to nine hours. So that, during the past season, it was possible for a merchant to leave Albany in the morning at seven o'clock, make the passage, have three hours to attend to his business in the city of New York, leave that city in the evening boat at seven o'clock, and be at his home again in Albany before day-break the next morning.

These predictions of Evans will appear the more extraordinary, when we recollect, that Fulton made his first experiment in running a steamboat from New York to Albany in 1807, and that she took thirty-two hours to make that passage, and, in doing that, more than realized the most sanguine expectations of her projector, as he declared at the time.*

* When the Dutch Commissioners left New York on the morning of the 15th of October, 1663, at sunrise, to visit the English officers at Hartford, to settle some disputes about boundaries, it took them between four and five days to make that journey, although they landed at New Haven, and travelled thence by land to Hartford. Then, however, it was not customary for the navigators to sail during the night; they cast anchor, and waited for daylight to start again.

So, too, when Governor Lovelace, then administering the government of New York, on the 10th of December, 1672, issued his proclamation for establishing the *first post*, or mail route, between the cities of New York and Boston, which was to commence on the first of January, 1673, the post was "to sett forth from this City of New Yorke *monthly*, and thence to travaile to Boston, from whence within that month hee shall returne againe to this City." As the post office regulations of that early period may be regarded as interesting, as well as curious, we give them.

"Those that be disposed to send letters, lett them bring them to the Secretary's office, where in a lockt box they shall bee preservd till the messenger calls for them. All persons paying the post before the bagg be sealed up."

The reasons for the establishment of this post were,—it was for the interest of the colonies

"to enter into a strict allyance and correspondency with each other, as likewise for the advancement of negotiation, trade, and civill commerce, and for a more speedy intelligence and dispatch of affayres."

Those were good sound reasons, and are operating in the present day with all the force they possessed when originally put forth. They have induced us to regard as means of "a more speedy intelligence," modes of transportation which even the last generation did not dream of. The intercourse, which, one hundred and seventy years ago, took *one month* to perfect, is now accomplished in *one day*. And the journey, which occupied the Dutch Commissioners between four and five days, is now easily accomplished, and without fatigue, in between *six and seven hours*. And the day is fast approaching, nay, is almost now at hand, when there will be one continued line of railroad through the Atlantic border, from Halifax, in North Carolina, to Boston. All that extended chain is now complete, except a short link of about forty-five miles on Long Island, which, we trust, will soon be perfected, as the Company, charged with that work, have, as we understand, been prosecuting it vigorously during the past season. It should be finished without delay; and then, who will limit the facility with which this "more speedy intelligence and dispatch of affayres," may be carried?

But to come down to our own day. Only twelve years since, in 1828, the first report concerning a railroad from Boston to Providence was made, in which it was proposed to lay a flat bar of iron on granite sleepers. Horse power was to be used, and it was calculated, that loaded trains could

Among other curious and valuable matters collected in this volume, from various recondite sources, the reader will find, in addition to what we have already noticed, “The Conditions between the City of Amsterdam and the West India Company, forming the Basis of the Original Settlement of New York ;” “A Description of the New Netherlands in 1649, from the Du Simitière Manuscripts ;” “Documents from the Colonial Records of New York ;” “Extracts from the ‘New World’ of John de Laet,” the celebrated navigator, who was a director of the Dutch West India Company (translated by Mr. Folsom from the original Dutch edition of 1625) ; “Hendrick Hudson’s Voyage to this Country in 1609, from the Journal, by his Mate, Robert Juet ;” (Juet accompanied Hudson on his last voyage in 1610, in which Hudson was turned adrift upon the open ocean, in a small boat, by his mutinous crew, and was never heard from again ; and Juet, who remained with the ship, perished from famine before she arrived in port ;) “Argall’s Expedition against the French Settlements in Acadia, and the Dutch Settlement on Manhattan Island, in 1613 ;” (this article, giving a plain and succinct account of an obscure part of our early history, is written by Mr. Folsom, the editor of the volume ;) and a “Letter of Thomas Dermer, describing his Passage from Maine to Virginia in 1619.” This letter is extracted from Purchas’s “Pilgrims,” London, 1625, and describes Dermer’s voyage, made in the employ of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, one of the original patentees of part of New England, in which voyage he sailed through Long Island Sound, and was the first person who ascertained that island to be such. After passing through what we now call *Hell Gate*, he was carried into a great bay, where he met with the Indians, who told him of two passages to the great sea, offered him pilots, “and one of them drew me a plat with chalk upon a chest, whereby I found it a great island, parted by the two seas.” Although Dermer may have been the first European, who published to the world, that he had ascertained Long Island to be an island, yet, as the editor has

be propelled “at the rate of three miles per hour” ; and that the same power of a single horse, working three hours a day, would convey a carriage, with twenty-five passengers, at the speed of *nine miles* per hour. What a change has taken place here, since but yesterday, as it were ?

successfully shown, he was not the first who sailed through the Sound. The Dutch have that honor, for Adrian Block made the voyage five years before Dermer, in the year 1614; when he discovered Block Island, which was named after him, and sailed up Connecticut river to near the site of Hartford.

Another document is the "Correspondence between the Colonies of New Netherlands and New Plymouth, in 1627, from the Letter Book of William Bradford, Governor of New Plymouth." The object of this correspondence seems to have been, on the part of the Dutch, to open a trade with the English colonies, which the government of New Plymouth had "desired them to forbear." But the Dutch insisted upon their right, claiming authority under the King of England and the States of Holland. The colonies of New England and the New Netherlands came very near a collision, in consequence of the Dutch extending their settlements on the Connecticut river. Nothing serious, however, seems to have grown out of the matter at this time. The sage inhabitants of New England contented themselves with settling down along side of the Dutch at Hartford, and commenced building their town under the guns of the Dutch fort *het huys de Hoop*, and soon fairly elbowed them out; and that so thoroughly, that not a vestige is left to indicate, that the goodly town of Hartford was originally settled by the worthy burghers from the Vatherland. De Vries gives a very amusing and characteristic account of the mode of proceeding of our enterprising forefathers on that occasion.

"In the morning of the 7th June, 1639, we came opposite de Versche river (Connecticut river). We went up the river, and on the 9th arrived with my yacht at the fort *het huys de Hoop*, where we found one Guysbert van Dyck as commander, with fourteen or fifteen soldiers. This fort is situated near the river, and a small creek, forming there a fall. The English had also begun to build here a town (Hartford) against our will, and had already a fine church and more than a hundred houses erected. The commander gave me orders to protest against their proceedings. He added, that some of his soldiers had prohibited them to put a plough into the ground, as it was our land, that we had bought of the Indians and paid for; but they opposed them, and had given a drubbing to the soldiers. When I came to the settlement, the English governor invited me to dinner. I told him, during

dinner, that he had acted very improperly in taking the lands of the Company, which were bought and paid for by them. He answered me, that these lands were lying uncultivated ; that we had been here already several years, and nothing was done to improve the ground ; that it was a sin to leave so valuable lands uncultivated, such fine crops could be raised upon them ; that they had now already built three towns on this river, in which there was abundance of salmon, &c. The English here live soberly. They drink only three times every meal, and those that become drunk are whipped on a pole, as the thieves are in Holland." — p. 261.

The great sobriety of the New Englanders for that time, was undoubtedly one cause of their success in raising their towns and settlements. De Vries mentions, that it was with extreme difficulty that the servant of the minister, who had been tipsy, escaped from being whipped.

Then follows "The Charter of Liberties granted to Patrons and Colonists in the New Netherlands in 1629, with Miscellaneous Extracts from the Dutch Colonial Records." These extracts are many of them very curious ; being letters of the Directors of the Dutch West India Company, the contract for building the first church in New Amsterdam (New York), tables of exports and imports from the New Netherlands by the West India Company from 1624 to 1635, a list of the wealthier citizens of New Amsterdam in 1653, and the tax-list of New Amsterdam in 1674. This last document was made after the reconquest of the city by the Dutch fleet under Admiral Colve, in 1673 ; and the city was then also known as *New Orange*, which we believe was at that period its official name. It is followed by a catalogue of the members of the Dutch church, with the names of the streets in the city of New York in 1686, from the original manuscript of the Rev. Henry Selyns, pastor of the church. We can readily imagine the affection with which such a record as the present will be received and examined by the descendants of the worthy Dutch families in that ancient city ; and the delight with which they will pore over it, and search out the residences of their ancestors. It forms, indeed, a kind of roll of honor, as well as an evidence of correct moral feeling ; showing the long and settled domicile of their families in that city, and the regard in which they must have been held by their fellow citizens, to have remained thus

long among them. This clergyman, the Rev. Henry Selyns, or Henricus Solinus, as he was also called, was a good scholar, and highly esteemed by his people. He discharged the duties of his ministry, in New York and Brooklyn, from 1660 to 1664, when he returned to Holland, and again came to New York in 1682, (having received a previous call to that city, which he declined,) and continued pastor of the church until his death, in 1701. He is said to have cultivated a taste for poetry, a few specimens of which still remain. One of them, a Latin poem of some length, will be found prefixed to the "*Magnalia Christi Americana*," by his friend, the Reverend Cotton Mather.

As the fourteenth article in this volume, we have Acrelius's "*New Sweden, or the Swedish Settlements on the Delaware* ; translated from the Original Swedish, by the late Nicholas Collin, D. D., of Philadelphia." This work has been much sought after, as it is the only accredited history we have of those Swedish settlements ; and, until this translation appeared, it remained a "sealed book" to most of our students of American history. Too much praise cannot be given to exertions of this nature, to bring before the public the hidden and unpublished records of our early times, and particularly when applied to works of high authority like the present. The Reverend Israel Acrelius, the author of this *History*, was Provost of the Swedish Churches in America, and probably better qualified, from his situation and opportunities, than any other man in the country, to give a correct account of these colonies.

A few particulars concerning the Directors-General, or Governors, of New Netherlands, by the Editor, constitute an article, on which we will dwell for a few moments. As to Peter Minuit, who is placed the first in array in this list of Governors, we shall content ourselves with referring to Mr. Folsom's account of him ; in which all is said, that we believe is possible in relation to this personage, and more, in truth, than we before thought had been preserved.

Wouter Van Twiller, the somewhat celebrated Doubter of Knickerbocker's veritable history, is said, by De Vries, to have "come to his office from a clerkship (at Amsterdam), — an amusing case." And, if De Vries is to be regarded as authority on this subject, he seems to have been as incompetent as Knickerbocker represents him, to discharge

the duties of his office. Not so much, however, for the reason given, of his sleepiness, as for his want of decision and his insubordinate conduct.

Irving's "*History of New York*, by Diederich Knickerbocker," has greater foundation in fact, than people generally suppose. The charm resulting from the happy manner in which the facts have been arranged, and the witty style in which they are related, have induced the almost general belief, that it is entirely a work of imagination. Who would suppose, that the Dutch Governor, using his knife or tobacco-box as a warrant for the apprehension of an offender, or to bring a debtor before him for judgment, had precedent to sustain it? Nevertheless such is the truth, extraordinary as it may seem at first blush. Among the ancient Celts, the godorsman, gode, or priest, summoned the inhabitants by a stick or stone. When a person was murdered among the Celts, an arrow was sent to assemble a Ting or Court, to judge and sentence the criminal. And the token or warrant of the kings of the Isle of Man, and of his deemster, was a small slate, on which their initials were inscribed; and there was a penalty of three pounds for falsifying it. These simple warrants were only prohibited in the year 1763.

Van Twiller was succeeded by a more efficient governor, in the person of William Kieft, who arrived in this country in 1638. He seems to have been the first governor, who introduced any thing like system in the proceedings of the colony, and with him commence regular records of the settlement. Soon after his arrival, he caused inquiries to be made into the state and condition of the New Netherlands, probably for the purpose of conveying some distinct information to his patrons at home. And to him we owe a detailed view of the situation of New Amsterdam (New York), in 1639, the only one which we have at that early period;—which, as it is a matter of great curiosity, we will give to the public from the original record.

"This day appeared before me Cornelius Van Tienhoven, Secretary in New Netherland, at the request of William Kieft, Director-General of the Privileged West India Company in New Netherland, Jacob Stoffelsen, Overseer, old about twenty-seven years, Gillis Petersen van de Youw Sweele, Carpenter, old twenty-seven years; who jointly declared, in the presence of the undersigned witnesses, that it is true, that

in the year 1638, the 28th of March, being the day on which William Kieft arrived here in the ship the *Heereog*, said Director Kieft did find Fort Amsterdam in a decayed state, — that it was open on every side, so that nothing could prevent to go in or out the same, except at the stone point, — all the guns from their carriages. Five farms without tenants, thrown into commons, — without one single creature remaining in property to the Company, all having been disposed of in other hands. Further, every vessel was in the worst condition, except the yacht *Prince William*, which might be employed. The house in the Fort required considerable repair; so too five other brick and frame houses, — the church, the lodge, the smith's shop. One grist mill and saw mill in operation, another out of repair; of the Magazine for wares and merchandise, with difficulty the place can be discovered where it stood. Besides this, the late Director Van Twiller has undertaken different works on account of other persons. All which we witnesses declare to be true, willing if required to sanction this by our solemn oath, and this we attested, to pay our homage to the truth, particularly when requested to do it. Done at Fort Amsterdam, 16th April, 1639.”*

What a change has taken place here in the course of two centuries, during which period many of the most important cities and towns in Europe have remained almost stationary. Here, on this little spot, where in 1639 there had been but one magazine for wares and merchandise, and that destroyed, — but one smith's shop, two saw mills, and a grist mill, — and where, one hundred and twelve years afterwards, there were but ten thousand souls, is now congregated a population of three hundred and thirteen thousand inhabitants, (about one eighth of the whole population of the State of New York, which State now contains over one eighth of the whole population of the United States,) engaged in a commerce, which sends its messengers to the ends of the earth; and deserving to be characterized, as ancient Egypt was by the inspired prophet and poet Isaiah, as “the land shadowing with wings,” “that sendeth ambassadors by the sea”; for the sails of their shipping overshadow the ocean. When we look back for about a century and a half, a period scarcely recognised by change in many portions of the old world, and find the Dutch fathers, assembled in council in the

* pp. 279, 280.

goodly city of New Amsterdam, goodly then in prospect, if not in fruition, declaring, in 1656, that "the widow of Hans Hansen, the *first born* Christian daughter in New Netherlands, burdened with seven children, petitions for a grant of a piece of meadow, in addition to the twenty morgen granted to her at the Waale Boght," opposite the city of New York, we can scarcely realize, that we thus see the beginning of that great city and State. And when we look at the assessment of that city, on her wealthier citizens, of five thousand and fifty guilders in 1653, and compare it with the assessed value of her real and personal estates in 1838, amounting to two hundred and sixty-four millions of dollars, it seems more like an ancient story of some minstrel of Arabia or Hindostan, than real, sober matter of fact.

Kieft did much to advance the interests of the colony over which he presided. Previous to 1642, he had built "a fine tavern of stone for the English, who, passing continually there with their vessels in going from New England to Virginia, occasioned him much inconvenience, and could now take lodgings there." In the subsequent year he erected the church of "rock stone," which stood until destroyed by fire in 1741, and was the only church in the city, until the erection of the chapel, by Governor Stuyvesant, on the site of the present St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

The colony thrived under his superintendence. But the most glorious days of the New Netherlands were under the administration of Peter Stuyvesant, which commenced in 1647, and continued until the conquest by the English, in August, 1664. We have some account of Governor Stuyvesant in the volume before us, and also an engraved portrait of him, taken from an original painting of his day, which we therefore presume to be a correct likeness; and a fine, noble, intelligent countenance it is.

We have been accustomed to regard Stuyvesant as a soldier; and the, "hard kossin Piet," of Diederich Knickerbocker, has been better known for his warlike humors, than for his talents as a statesman. In this, however, we have become satisfied, tradition has done him much injustice. It is not in his government, that you read

"Of cruel, bloody, and unnatural acts,
Of accidental judgments, casual slaughters;

Of deaths put on by cunning and forced cause,
And, in the upshot, purposes mistook
Fallen on the inventors' heads;''

but of a series of measures calculated to advance the interests of his countrymen, and to build up the little insignificant colony, on the banks of the Hudson, into a city of such a character and importance as to attract the attention of the English government, and to warrant the fitting out of an expedition for its subjugation.

To the encouragement of Stuyvesant is to be attributed the first emigration of the French Huguenots to this country, whose descendants now, and for many generations past, have been some of our most respectable and intelligent citizens. It appears, from the council records, that, on the 24th of January, 1664, N. Van Beeck, a merchant in New Amsterdam, stated, that he had received letters from Rochelle in France, signifying the wish of several persons, professing the Protestant religion, to emigrate to New Netherland, as their churches had been burnt, &c.; and the governor and council resolved to receive them hospitably, and to allow them land gratuitously.

This was in accordance with the generous policy pursued by the Dutch West India Company at that period, which evinced a more enlightened view of the advantages to result to the commerce of the mother country from the establishment of a prosperous colonial system, than appears to have been entertained by any other nation of Europe. And it was the success which attended this Dutch commercial policy, that led to the celebrated navigation act of England. In pursuance of this policy, the colonial government, under Stuyvesant, was instructed in those acts of mercy to the pilgrim, by a document from the West India Company under the States-General of Holland, which deserves to be preserved to all posterity, and written in letters of gold. The colonial government had previously fallen into the great error of persecuting the Quakers, whereupon that document was addressed to Governor Stuyvesant in the year 1663, from which the following is an extract.

“ In the youth of your existence, you ought rather to encourage than check the population of the colony. The consciences of men ought to be free and unshackled, so long as they continue moderate, peaceable, inoffensive, and not hostile

to the government. Such have been the maxims of prudence and toleration, by which the magistrates of this city [Amsterdam] have been governed ; and the consequences have been, that the oppressed and persecuted, from every country, have found among us an asylum from distress. Follow in the same steps, and you will be blessed."

It was to the good character which the colony thus obtained abroad throughout Europe, that we may attribute the continued prosecution of the same system under the English government, which had been so popular under the Dutch, and which led to the same results in both instances ; although a different policy was pursued at the same time in England. In 1710, three thousand Palatines, who fled to England, the year previous, from the rage of persecution in Germany, emigrated to New York, under the guidance of Governor Robert Hunter. Some of them settled in the city of New York, and others on Livingston Manor in Columbia county, while others journeyed into Pennsylvania, where their descendants remain to the present time. And again, during the government of William Burnet in that colony, — who was the son of the celebrated Bishop of that name, and began his administration in September, 1720, which continued for seven years, — the persecutions in France, which followed the revocation of the edict of Nantz, drove thousands of Protestants into foreign countries. Many of them fled into that colony, and settled the town of New Rochelle, in Westchester county, which they called after their native city in France ; and a few seated themselves at New Paltz, in Ulster county. From these Huguenots several of the respectable families in Pennsylvania trace their descent.

Governor Stuyvesant not only encouraged emigration to his colony, by inviting the persecuted of the old world to share its hospitalities, but he also devoted a large portion of his time to laying the foundations for the present city of New York, by establishing ordinances for its government. In 1647, he prohibited selling strong drink to the Indians, under the heavy penalty of five hundred Carolus guilders, "and the further responsibility for all the misdemeanors that may result therefrom." He not only prescribed this regulation, but also provided, that justice should be done to the aborigines ; that their lands should not be taken without payment, and that the inhabitants should pay them for any

work which they should do for them, "in the penalty of such a fine as, according to the occasion, shall be deemed right."

On the 23d of July, 1647, he established the first regular tariff of duties on furs, &c., shipped from the colony to Holland. It is amusing to notice the jealousy with which the first Dutch settlers regarded the interference of foreigners in the trade and commerce of New Netherlands. The Scotch, particularly, seemed to attract their attention ; and the Burgomasters and Schepens of the city complained of them to the Governor and Council, and urged that their trading there, without being householders and owners in the colony, was prejudicial to its interests. On the 23d of January, 1657, the Governor and Council proceeded to consider this complaint ; and they delivered, *seriatim*, their "consideration and advice." First of all, Governor Stuyvesant, after stating the question, observed, that "to compel any individual to make a permanent residence here is too slavish to be endured ; and that it is best to stick to the letter and intention of Lords Directors (in Holland). But he is of opinion, that no foreign merchants, skippers, or sailors, be they Scotchmen or not, shall sell their goods in the country, unless they keep a store in this city, either in their own or in an hired house." After the members of the Council had also delivered their opinions, it was determined, that no foreigner should be permitted to sell goods in the country, unless he kept a store in the city ; that he should first obtain that privilege from the burgomasters and schepens by making a compensation which should be deemed reasonable ; and that he should also take the oath of allegiance, to be a good subject for the time he remained in the country.

The Governor also provided for the improvement of the city, and appointed three surveyors, who should attend to the erection of buildings, that none of them encroached upon the streets. This first attempt at a regular system of city improvement in New York, was by an act of July 25th, 1647. Afterwards, in conformity with that ordinance, the city government provided, that buildings or fences should not be erected without first calling the surveyors, and obtaining their approbation. Again, on the 23d of January, 1648, the Governor, with his Council, ordained, that thereafter, in New Am-

sterdam, "no wooden or platted chimneys shall be permitted to be built in any houses between the fort, and the fresh water, (that is, between the Battery and the halls of Justice,) and that those already standing shall be permitted to remain during the good pleasure of the fire-wardens." And nine years subsequently the Governor and his Council issued a proclamation, declaring, that "they have long since condemned all flag roofs, and wooden and platted chimneys," within the city.

A very rigid police existed in the city under the administration of Stuyvesant, as is evident from various regulations still extant in the ancient records of the colony. The following is given as an instance. On the 3d of December, 1657, the Corporation of the city, then known as "the Schout, Burgomasters, and Schepens," issued a proclamation, declaring, that,

"Warning is hereby given to all the Chirurgeons of this city, and they are advertised, that by the magistracy of this city it is demanded of them all, that, whenever they are called upon to dress a wound, they shall ask the patient, who has wounded him ; and give information thereof to the Schout, — or, in failure thereof, they shall pay the pecuniary penalty incurred by the infliction of the wound."*

The Burgomasters of the city, under Stuyvesant, not only administered its corporate regulations, but also formed a Court of Justice, which heard and determined all civil, and some criminal cases, with an appeal to the Governor and Council. Their meetings were opened by prayer, offered up by the presiding officer. The form is preserved to us, as a preface to the ancient records. The magistrates ask for grace, "that we may with fidelity and righteousness, serve in our respective offices." The prayer then proceeds ;

"To this end, enlighten our darkened understandings, that we may be able to distinguish the right from the wrong, the truth from falsehood ; and that we may give pure and uncor-

* In some of their regulations they descended to minutiae, which we should regard as very singular in the present day. Thus we find, that in 1650, while they declared the bakers "have the privilege for the accommodation of the community of baking white bread," they prohibited them from making "cakes or cracknels." The reason for this distinction is not now apparent, although, no doubt, a good one was then thought to exist.

rupted decisions, having an eye on thy word ; a sure guide, giving to the simple wisdom and knowledge." " Deeply impress on all our minds that we are accountable, not to men, but unto God, who seeth and heareth all things. Let all respect of persons be removed from us, that we may award justice unto the rich and the poor, unto friends and enemies, to residents and to strangers, according to the law of truth, and that not one of us may in any instance swerve therefrom." " Grant unto us, also, that we may not rashly prejudice any one without a hearing, but that we patiently hear the parties, and give them time and opportunity for defending themselves." " Graciously incline our hearts, that we exercise the power which thou hast given to us, to the general good of the community," &c.

The inhabitants of the city and colony seem, at that early period, to have carried their rejoicings and sports on New Year's day, and May day, rather further than was deemed consonant with a proper regard to the well-being of the community. And we find that Governor Stuyvesant and his Council, on New Year's eve, 1655, declared, that " from this time forth, within this province of New Netherlands, on the New Year and May days, there shall be no firing of guns, nor Maypoles planted ; nor shall there be any beating of the drum ; nor shall there be on the occasion any wines, brandy wines, or beers dealt out." The Dutch inhabitants seemed to have been very fond of firing guns, when they went the rounds visiting their neighbours' houses on New Year's eve and New Year's day ; a practice, which, notwithstanding that ordinance, continued in full force in many parts of the State of New York, until after the Revolutionary war, when it was made a penal offence by an act of the Legislature.

The Dutch government under Stuyvesant also made several attempts to introduce the culture and manufacture of various articles of commerce in the colony. Tobacco was cultivated with great success on several plantations in Brooklyn, opposite the city. And, such was the high character which it attained in the European market, from a rigid inspection established by the colonial government, that it for some time obtained the preference over that from any other colony. Its culture for the purposes of trade soon began to diminish under the English administration, until, in the course of about thirty years, if not sooner, it ceased to be exported. At-

tempts were also made to introduce the culture of silk. And in 1656, the West India Company sent instructions to Governor Stuyvesant "to attend to the cultivation and increase of the silkworm" in the colony. This too was lost sight of by the English government. The vine was also cultivated, and, according to Vander Donck, several persons had vineyards and "wine hills" under cultivation; "and Providence blessed their labors with success, by affording fruit according to the most favorable expectation." They also introduced foreign grape stocks, and induced men to come over from Heidelberg, who were vine-dressers, for the purpose of attending to the vineyards. The clove tree was likewise introduced during this administration, but with what success we are not told.

Our white and red roses, cornelian roses, and stock roses, with gilly flowers, tulips, crown-imperials, white lilies, marigolds, and violets, were brought from Holland into the colony by the Dutch settlers, who had a fine taste for flowers. The sun-flowers, red and yellow lilies, several species of bell-flowers, mountain-lilies, with a great variety of others, were indigenous, and found in the country by the colonists; as were also peaches and apples; but the quince tree was introduced by the Huguenots and Palatines from the banks of the Danube.

After the surrender of his government to an overwhelming English force in 1664, Governor Stuyvesant was so highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens, that he passed the remainder of his life, being eighteen years, on Manhattan Island. His remains are interred in the family vault, constructed originally within the walls of the second church in the city of New York, also known as the Governor's Chapel, which, for pious purposes, he had built at his own expense on his Bouwery or Farm. And when the first church was erected in the then new plantation of "Brenkelen," opposite the city, and the congregation were too few to afford a sufficient support to a minister of the Gospel, he agreed, if they would call and settle the Reverend Henry Selyns, of whom we have before spoken as an able and learned man, he would pay one half of his salary, and Mr. Selyns should preach in the afternoon in his chapel, which was accordingly done. That chapel is gone, and its site is now and has been for many years occupied by St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Some years ago we took an antiquarian stroll upon Manhattan Island, in which we visited that church. On the outer wall of the eastern side of the church we found, near the water table, a freestone tablet, on which is the following inscription ;

“ In this vault lies buried Petrus Stuyvesant, late Captain-General and Commander-in-chief of Amsterdam in New Netherland, now called New York, and the Dutch West India Islands. Died August, A. D. 1682,* aged eighty years.”

We have thus given a short notice of the most able and worthy of the Dutch governors of New York, and in so doing, trust we have brought to light some of the acts of that excellent man, which were veiled in obscurity, and beyond the ken of most, beside the historical antiquary.

The remainder of the volume under consideration is an Historical Sketch of the New York Historical Society, prepared by Mr. Folsom with much care and research, and constituting a document of great interest to its members.

We cannot leave the subject without again commending to the notice of the public this valuable collection of history. If the volumes to succeed it shall equal it in merit, they will constitute a series invaluable, not only from the rarity of the works in their original form, which are there given, but also by reason of their excellence. The selection is made with great judgment. And the introductory notices and notes, by the editor, from the ability with which they are made, add much to the value of the work.

* This is an error, as the last will and testament of Governor Stuyvesant was proved in 1672. See the work under review, p. 399. The stone tablet was erected about the year 1800, by a descendant of the Dutch governor, who trusted entirely to tradition in regard to the time of his decease. At this time, the vault was repaired and enlarged, and the remains of the Governor were supposed to be recognised, after the lapse of nearly one hundred and thirty years.
